LIVE STOCK IN QUEENSLAND.

Statistics of live stock in Queensland at 31st March, 1946, have been compiled from annual returns lodged by farmers and pastoralists.

Horses. - There were 367,357 horses on rural holdings at 31st March, 1946, compared with 380,670 a year earlier. All Statistical Divisions excepting the Far-Western participated in the decline, which was the continuation, at a rather accelerated pace, of a long-term downward trend since 1918, when the number reached its highest level at about 700,000.

Cattle. - The total number of cattle in Queensland at 31st March, 1946, was 6,542,210, compared with 6,623,112 a year earlier. Dairy cattle declined from 1,509,242 to 1,442,701, and beef cattle from 5,113,870 to 5,099,509. Apart from 1945, the 1946 total has only been exceeded in the years 1892 to 1895; in 1921, when the record total of 7,047,370 was reached; and in 1922. The record drought at the beginning of the century reduced the number of cattle by half to 2,481,717 in 1903, and there were other low points in 1916 (4,765,657) and 1928 (5,128,341).

Three successive, and progressively larger, declines have reduced the dairy cattle total by 130,924, or 8.3 per cent., from the record 1943 level. A herd reduction policy is indicated by the drop in the proportion of heifers and calves to total dairy stock from 32.1 per cent. in 1943 to 29.5 per cent. in 1946; on the other hand, the number of dairy cows intended for calving this year is recorded at 826,401, compared with 815,313 last year (see Table 1 attached).

In the four main dairying Divisions, which together account for 92 per cent. of the State's dairy cattle, the declines in numbers in the twelve months, and in the three years (in brackets), ended 31st March, 1946, have been as follows:- Downs, 19,989 (32,494, or 9.4 per cent.); Rockhampton, 10,472 (20,273, or 9.4 per cent.); Maryborough, 17,127 (34,157, or 8.2 per cent.); and Moreton, 9,175 (12,956, or 2.9 per cent.).

The year's slight drop of 14,361 (0.3 per cent.) in the beef cattle total was due to declines in the following four Statistical Divisions:- Roma, 20,377 (6.8 per cent.); South-Western, 14,944 (6.7 per cent.); Rockhampton, 38,503 (4.0 per cent.); and Central-Western, 1,120 (0.2 per cent.). Increases in the other nine Divisions were small, except for the Downs, where the trend of recent years was continued with a rise of 24,662, or 5.5 per cent. During the last three years, beef cattle in the Downs Division have increased by 144,101, while dairy cattle have declined by 32,494 and sheep by 761,549.

Sheep.- The State total of 18,943,762 sheep at 31st March, 1946, represented a fall of 2,348,358 for the year and a total decline of 6,706,469, or 26.1 per cent., from the 1943 all-time record number. The extension and intensification of drought conditions during the last six months will have caused a further substantial reduction.

All but one Statistical Division shared in the year's decline, the exception being Roma, where, despite poor seasonal conditions during most of the year, sheep increased by 51,028, or 1.9 per cent. This, apparently, was made possible by light stocking, following a reduction of 932,009 sheep during the preceding two years, and by a comparatively good lambing.

A notable feature of the figures for the other main sheep Divisions is the wide distribution of the year's decline, with the drought conditions in some areas accentuating the movement to smaller flocks. The general nature of this movement is also seen, and its sustained character is indicated, in the distribution of the sharp drop from the 1943 record total.

Thus, the declines in numbers in the twelve months, and in the three years (in brackets), ended 31st March, 1946, for the main sheep Divisions other than Roma have been as follows:- South-Western, where drought conditions have been worst, 722,787 (1,661,300, or 34.6 per cent.); Central-Western, 595,357 (1,766,792, or 27.5 per cent.); Downs, 259,390 (761,549, or 23.6 per cent.); Far-Western, 372,027 (661,056, or 21.5 per cent.); and North-Western, 432,943 (919,517, or 20.8 per cent.). In the Roma Statistical Division, the 1946 total was lower than that for 1943 by 880,981, or 24.6 per cent.

Sheep and Cattle Trends Compared.- The most interesting feature of the live stock figures of recent years is the evidence they provide of the tendency of producers to change from dairy farming and sheep grazing to the raising of beef cattle. The most striking illustration of this development is found in the Downs Statistical Division, which was free from drought conditions up to 31st March, 1946. Taking one head of cattle as equivalent to seven sheep, this Division's three-year increase of 144,101 in beef cattle was more than sufficient to balance the reductions of 761,549 and 32,494 in the numbers of sheep and dairy cattle, respectively.

Excepting the North-Western, all of the important sheep Divisions were grazing more beef cattle at 31st March, 1946, than three years earlier, whereas their sheep numbers had fallen during this period by 21.5 to 34.6 per cent. It is also noteworthy that, excluding the Downs, the sheep Divisions with the largest increases in beef cattle were those in which the greatest reductions in sheep numbers had occurred, namely, the South-Western, Central-Western, and Roma Divisions, where the three-year increases in beef cattle were 36,105, 35,765, and 22,424, respectively.

Further evidence that these trends have been the result, in part at least, of pastoralists' desire to shift from sheep to beef cattle is provided by the recorded calving and lambing intentions. In the six Statistical Divisions containing 99.6 per cent. of the State's sheep, the proportion of beef cows intended for calving to all beef cows has been well maintained and reached a peak of 54.9 per cent. in 1946. On the other hand, the State proportion of ewes intended for lambing to all breeding ewes fell sharply from 96.4 per cent. in 1943 to 87.1 per cent. in 1945, and only partially recovered to 91.9 per cent. in 1946.

Pigs.- At 415,411, the number of pigs in the State at 31st March, 1946, was lower than a year earlier by 22,677, and was 34,980 below the record 1944 total. Led by the Downs, with a fall of 5.2 per cent., all important pig-raising Divisions shared in the year's decline.

While pig-raising is closely allied to dairying, there being approximately one pig to two dairy cows in three of the four important dairying Divisions, the pig industry outstripped dairying in the progress of both to the record numbers of recent years. Thus, while in the ten years up to their peak level in 1943, dairy cows, including heifers, increased by half, pig numbers, in the eleven years 1933 to 1944, more than doubled.

COLIN CLARK

GOVERNMENT STATISTICIAN.

Government Statistician's Office,

BRISBANE,

10th October, 1946.

TABLE 1.

QUEENSLAND LIVE STOCK DURING LAST FOUR YEARS.

Particulars.	1943.	1944.	1945.	1946.
HORSES (a) -				
Draught (1 year and over) ..	153,282	146,773	145,464	139,209
Other (1 year and over) ..	216,145	218,256	215,293	210,038
Foals (under 1 year) ..	23,212	21,989	19,913	18,110
Total	392,639	387,018	380,670	367,357
DAIRY CATTLE (a) -				
Dairy Cows in Milk	764,629	749,162	742,387	714,800
Dairy Cows Dry	270,631	273,697	258,991	273,035
Heifers (1 year and over) ..	273,520	267,539	266,451	254,236
Calves (under 1 year) ..	232,276	225,134	210,960	171,318
Bulls (1 year and over) ..	32,569	30,522	30,453	29,312
Total	1,573,625	1,546,054	1,509,242	1,442,701
BEEF CATTLE (a) -				
Cows (inc.Heifers 1 year and over) ..	2,273,361	2,206,425	2,236,530	2,210,965
Calves (under 1 year) ..	794,829	801,575	777,746	779,805
Bulls (1 year and over) ..	69,142	68,153	69,388	69,243
Others (inc.Speyed Cows, Bullocks,etc.) ..	1,755,359	1,902,343	2,030,206	2,039,496
Total	4,892,691	4,978,496	5,113,870	5,099,509
TOTAL ALL CATTLE (a)	6,466,316	6,524,550	6,623,112	6,542,210
Cows Expected to Calve during Year -				
Dairy Cows	816,436	819,874	815,313	826,401
Beef Cows	1,102,875	1,111,882	1,028,149	1,148,304
SHEEP (a) -				
Rams (1 year and over) ..	299,371	277,556	254,486	234,682
Breeding Ewes	9,345,912	8,665,657	8,223,012	8,221,509
Other Ewes (1 year and over)	3,120,690	2,935,827	2,535,086	1,480,913
Wethers (1 year and over) ..	8,747,440	8,336,263	7,473,330	6,321,268
Lambs and Hoggets (under 1 year).. ..	4,136,818	3,040,281	2,806,206	2,685,390
Total	25,650,231	23,255,584	21,292,120	18,943,762
Lambs Marked (b)	4,285,489	3,536,173	3,110,739	3,103,636
Ewes Mated to produce above lambs	8,389,036	7,417,251	6,872,199	6,430,750
PIGS (a) -				
Boars	12,682	12,485	12,237	11,220
Breeding Sows..	51,045	53,495	51,124	45,909
Baconers and Porkers ..	111,980	131,825	128,268	136,029
Backfatters	5,502	4,907	4,980	5,586
Stores	94,752	105,260	115,127	103,890
Suckers, Weaners, Slips ..	133,387	142,419	126,352	112,777
Total	409,348	450,391	438,088	415,411

(a) At 31st March.

(b) During the twelve months ended previous December.

TABLE 2.

LIVE STOCK IN STATISTICAL DIVISIONS AT 31ST MARCH, 1946.

(With figures for 31st March, 1945, in brackets).

Statistical Division.	Horses.	Cattle.	Sheep.	Pigs.
Moreton	47,796 (48,472)	577,158 (585,284)	5,018 (5,422)	132,583 (136,137)
Maryborough	44,899 (46,053)	771,099 (783,363)	3,164 (5,261)	113,581 (116,826)
Downs	53,211 (55,513)	791,668 (786,995)	2,459,848 (2,719,238)	110,389 (116,401)
Roma	18,074 (18,817)	297,065 (320,420)	2,705,220 (2,654,192)	1,351 (1,683)
South-Western ..	14,249 (15,737)	211,710 (227,768)	3,135,377 (3,858,164)	344 (451)
Total South Queensland	178,229 (184,592)	2,648,700 (2,703,830)	8,308,627 (9,242,277)	358,248 (371,498)
Rockhampton ..	38,770 (40,141)	1,120,275 (1,169,250)	66,165 (78,976)	36,514 (41,151)
Central-Western ..	27,891 (29,163)	476,780 (478,574)	4,650,302 (5,245,659)	1,042 (1,321)
Far-Western	13,149 (13,127)	256,985 (249,781)	2,407,085 (2,779,112)	111 (76)
Total Central Queensland	79,810 (82,431)	1,854,040 (1,897,605)	7,123,552 (8,103,747)	37,667 (42,548)
Mackay	21,351 (21,941)	161,810 (156,018)	2,105 (2,470)	1,480 (2,017)
Townsville	22,552 (23,724)	532,218 (526,804)	2,176 (3,202)	4,740 (6,289)
Cairns	21,930 (23,244)	210,247 (209,197)	103 (282)	12,413 (14,678)
Peninsula	4,031 (4,051)	94,795 (92,788)	- (-)	9 (25)
North-Western ..	39,454 (40,687)	1,040,400 (1,036,870)	3,507,199 (3,940,142)	854 (1,033)
Total North Queensland	109,318 (113,647)	2,039,470 (2,021,677)	3,511,583 (3,946,096)	19,496 (24,042)
TOTAL QUEENSLAND:	367,357 (380,670)	6,542,210 (6,623,112)	18,943,762 (21,292,120)	415,411 (438,088)

TABLE 3.

CATTLE, SHEEP, AND PIGS IN LOCAL AUTHORITY AREAS, AT 31ST MARCH, 1945 AND 1946.

Division and Local Authority Area.	CATTLE.		SHEEP.		PIGS.	
	1945.	1946.	1945.	1946.	1945.	1946.
Moreton	585,284	577,158	5,422	5,018	136,137	132,583
Brisbane	16,535	15,310	282	55	7,466	7,812
Ipswich	207	210	-	-	97	112
Coolangatta ..	173	171	-	-	-	-
Redcliffe ..	671	659	-	-	126	50
Southport ..	1,646	1,606	-	-	438	250
Beaudesert ..	65,458	64,017	300	416	16,504	16,880
Beenleigh ..	9,794	9,856	125	137	1,635	1,612
Boonah	45,720	44,516	18	64	16,757	17,295
Caboolture ..	27,763	26,811	139	136	3,751	3,300
Cleveland ..	870	705	-	30	162	171
Coomera	9,894	9,785	131	93	1,256	1,137
Crows Nest ..	28,703	27,785	90	5	11,699	11,148
Esk	95,757	95,387	1,126	896	16,977	16,518
Gatton	37,458	36,691	578	521	9,130	8,739
Kilcoy	27,725	28,964	147	103	4,765	5,038
Laidley	21,584	20,498	1,057	1,329	5,560	5,530
Landsborough ..	28,778	28,297	274	150	7,964	6,695
Maroochy	32,123	30,897	81	125	6,250	6,013
Moreton	15,318	15,470	171	184	3,434	3,155
Nerang	19,247	18,317	244	228	2,948	2,594
Normanby	21,020	20,846	158	192	4,853	5,080
Pine	26,107	26,035	97	26	1,248	1,531
Rosewood	25,448	26,055	140	133	6,010	5,821
Tamborine ..	18,251	19,254	182	166	5,010	4,561
Tingalpa	3,533	3,363	73	-	1,488	1,029
Waterford ..	5,501	5,653	9	29	609	512
Maryborough ..	783,363	771,099	5,261	3,164	116,826	113,581
Bundaberg ..	97	122	-	-	85	3
Gympie	88	69	-	-	-	-
Maryborough ..	393	323	-	-	9	8
Biggenden ..	33,162	32,539	79	29	4,454	4,357
Burrum	17,399	16,866	213	143	2,419	1,925
Eidsvold	60,417	61,366	58	126	1,642	1,193
Gayndah	63,579	62,096	121	110	6,357	5,924
Gooburrum ..	14,939	14,220	1,358	1,092	1,649	1,189
Isis	14,682	16,101	4	6	501	652
Kilkivan	74,629	73,829	485	250	8,390	8,515
Kingaroy	66,059	59,249	276	206	17,997	16,797
Kolan	66,778	65,899	124	146	1,806	1,445
Mundubbera ..	45,102	45,485	55	63	5,595	4,734
Murgon	23,644	23,670	151	92	11,737	11,476
Nanango	31,432	31,187	353	178	10,414	11,041
Noosa	28,986	27,890	169	140	5,776	5,566
Perry	33,012	33,314	8	8	61	70
Tiaro	35,578	36,411	75	56	3,564	3,526
Widgee	74,831	73,015	1,502	234	13,471	13,410
Wondai	65,265	64,503	94	150	19,587	20,529
Woocoo	23,384	23,745	115	110	742	717
Woongarra ..	9,907	9,200	21	25	570	504

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Division and Local Authority Area.	CATTLE.		SHEEP.		PIGS.	
	1945.	1946.	1945.	1946.	1945.	1946.
Downs	786,995	791,668	2,719,238	2,459,848	116,401	110,389
Toowoomba ..	385	499	22	27	206	158
Warwick ..	114	138	-	-	32	56
Dalby ..	17	19	-	-	25	8
Goondiwindi ..	-	-	-	-	-	-
Allora ..	14,383	13,677	3,076	1,734	4,718	4,240
Cambooya ..	16,970	17,148	9,021	6,749	5,448	4,843
Chinchilla ..	109,344	106,803	34,100	28,606	7,856	8,651
Clifton ..	18,057	17,354	22,155	19,125	6,847	6,492
Drayton ..	3,753	3,881	519	227	424	404
Glengallan ..	39,610	39,695	15,735	10,697	7,855	7,410
Highfields ..	16,731	17,234	93	122	6,591	6,433
Inglewood ..	44,479	46,287	401,592	348,666	1,476	1,595
Jondaryan ..	39,944	41,308	69,406	55,787	9,594	7,690
Millmerran ..	46,959	47,787	123,886	109,178	7,735	7,724
Murilla ..	65,401	68,444	43,984	30,808	1,027	1,167
Pittsworth ..	25,223	24,403	33,499	27,859	8,368	8,176
Rosalie ..	69,152	68,746	6,198	3,926	26,318	26,011
Rosenthal ..	32,584	31,432	126,336	95,780	2,349	1,867
Stanthorpe ..	11,540	12,402	179,563	159,434	1,184	624
Tara	49,627	50,169	564,905	534,955	305	163
Waggamba ..	55,574	62,245	917,589	905,554	350	194
Wambo ..	127,148	121,997	167,559	120,614	17,693	16,483
Roma	320,420	297,065	2,654,192	2,705,220	1,683	1,351
Roma	387	361	-	-	-	-
Balonne ..	24,418	21,255	1,115,195	1,204,877	74	54
Bendemere ..	55,427	49,055	37,199	33,446	961	750
Booringa ..	106,141	97,689	492,974	463,025	47	37
Bungil ..	106,449	99,939	427,537	426,334	597	501
Warroo ..	27,598	28,766	581,287	577,538	4	9
South-Western	227,768	211,710	3,858,164	3,135,377	451	344
Charleville ..	263	146	60	38	-	-
Bulloo ..	79,872	72,299	292,799	223,106	14	8
Murweh ..	79,177	71,238	1,281,013	1,060,532	54	111
Paroo ..	23,043	20,040	1,222,665	994,474	150	105
Quilpie ..	45,413	47,987	1,061,627	857,227	233	120
Rockhampton	1,169,250	1,120,275	78,976	66,165	41,151	36,514
Rockhampton ..	1,128	934	-	-	271	224
Gladstone ..	-	9	-	-	-	6
Banana ..	243,338	228,403	19,262	17,131	14,113	13,517
Broadsound ..	147,290	144,057	3,540	480	188	58
Calliope ..	103,671	101,723	1,062	1,187	2,976	3,027
Duaringa ..	143,473	138,122	280	387	255	157
Fitzroy ..	92,522	87,644	8,691	7,967	2,193	1,684
Livingstone ..	135,737	124,817	8,321	7,840	3,669	2,366
Miriam Vale ..	56,737	53,315	159	148	1,461	1,253
Monto ..	80,378	78,590	724	631	15,486	13,748
Mt. Morgan ..	5,004	4,402	2	-	23	5
Taroom ..	159,972	158,256	36,935	30,394	516	469

TABLE 3 (CONTD.)

Division and Local Authority Area.	CATTLE.		SHEEP.		PIGS	
	1945.	1946.	1945.	1946.	1945.	1946.
Central-Western	478,574	476,780	5,245,659	4,650,302	1,321	1,042
Aramac ..	8,314	8,647	1,130,347	1,039,791	54	51
Barcaldine ..	2,354	2,264	434,207	353,453	761	465
Bauhinia ..	119,538	127,662	163,230	124,744	9	2
Belyando ..	165,085	152,408	219,822	164,606	189	144
Blackall ..	5,965	6,969	770,195	722,225	146	136
Emerald ..	57,284	58,351	161,126	133,296	33	60
Ilfracombe ..	2,275	1,703	371,513	347,949	-	-
Jericho ..	60,513	60,220	247,624	190,857	-	14
Longreach ..	14,316	12,305	1,040,091	931,981	82	137
Peak Downs ..	25,027	28,037	232,751	187,490	26	16
Tambo ..	17,903	18,214	474,753	453,910	21	17
Far-Western ..	249,781	256,985	2,779,112	2,407,085	76	111
Barcoo ..	64,142	67,239	516,409	397,364	-	4
Boulia ..	69,043	74,673	466,263	397,021	7	18
Diamantina ..	73,974	73,658	-	-	-	-
Isisford ..	2,814	3,744	379,237	322,729	52	56
Winton ..	39,808	37,671	1,417,203	1,289,971	17	33
Mackay ..	156,018	161,810	2,470	2,105	2,017	1,480
Mackay ..	257	276	-	-	73	98
Mirani ..	19,859	21,806	102	112	422	295
Nebo ..	79,469	81,975	334	108	95	97
Pioneer ..	28,361	29,810	1,208	1,136	944	687
Proserpine ..	11,567	12,551	814	749	228	148
Sarina ..	16,505	15,392	12	-	255	155
Townsville ..	526,804	532,218	3,202	2,176	6,289	4,740
Charters Towers	7	13	-	-	-	-
Townsville ..	1,192	837	-	-	405	243
Bowen ..	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ayr ..	25,342	22,097	-	-	517	398
Dalrymple ..	303,834	311,826	2,900	1,926	1,394	526
Thuringowa ..	22,982	21,633	220	250	3,728	3,304
Wangaratta ..	173,447	175,812	82	-	245	269
Cairns ..	209,197	210,247	282	103	14,678	12,413
Cairns ..	298	250	-	-	755	633
Atherton ..	9,076	8,712	65	26	6,151	4,250
Cardwell ..	4,483	5,626	-	-	154	187
Douglas ..	3,614	3,110	-	-	373	245
Eacham ..	29,375	28,306	136	7	4,184	4,589
Herberton ..	33,813	35,717	7	-	895	795
Hinchinbrook	18,671	19,766	50	53	491	549
Johnstone ..	6,089	5,990	24	17	354	314
Mulgrave ..	2,668	2,256	-	-	455	326
Woothakata ..	101,110	100,514	-	-	866	525
Peninsula ..	92,788	94,795	-	-	25	9
Thursday Island	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cook ..	92,788	94,795	-	-	25	9

TABLE 3 (CONTD.)

Division and Local Authority Area.	CATTLE.		SHEEP.		PIGS.	
	1945.	1946.	1945.	1946.	1945.	1946.
North-Western	1,036,870	1,040,400	3,940,142	3,507,199	1,033	854
Hughenden ..	201	60	-	-	12	10
Barkly Tableland	83,006	102,894	28,680	11,949	19	69
Burke ..	118,378	113,587	2,300	730	-	-
Carpentaria	259,237	263,743	42	-	55	64
Cloncurry ..	141,227	127,800	456,119	354,022	383	185
Croydon ..	36,457	38,538	-	-	-	-
Etheridge ..	199,308	186,425	-	-	520	503
Flinders ..	84,453	84,059	1,405,133	1,235,773	43	20
McKinlay ..	76,311	83,294	1,136,579	1,036,415	-	3
Wyangarie ..	38,292	40,000	911,289	868,310	1	-